

# **Securing Ealing's future**

# **People, Prosperity, Pride**

Labour's Manifesto for the  
Ealing Council Elections 2006

# A message from the Leader of the Council



*Dear Resident*

As Ealing's first woman Labour Leader I am very pleased and honoured to put this manifesto before you.

Your Labour Council has aimed for the highest standards in delivering services to local people while keeping council tax levels lower than most of our neighbouring boroughs.

I believe we can secure a better future for our borough through people, prosperity and pride but we can't do this alone. We need to work with our partners: schools, the police, the health service, local colleges, local businesses and the voluntary sector. We have excellent relationships with all of them built up over many years. Working closely with our three Labour MPs, the Labour Mayor of London and the Labour Government we will bring even more investment into the borough to help us improve it.

We want to provide the very best services possible for all people in the borough with extra help going to those that who need it. The diversity of our borough is what makes it special and successful. Ealing has much prosperity but too many examples of real hardship.

I believe we need to create a shared prosperity for all by creating more work opportunities, better housing and reviving the local economy. I would like all people in Ealing to share our pride in the borough - its distinctive town centres, beautiful green spaces and diverse communities - and to help us to make it an even better place to live and work.

When Labour took control of Ealing Council in 1994 we inherited a demoralised workforce, crumbling schools and an unworkable environmental services contract. I hope, like me, you don't want to return to that. Independent inspectors from the Audit Commission have recently judged us a 3-star - good - council and we are now working towards becoming a 4-star - excellent - council.

The next few pages set out what we have already achieved and what we want to achieve over the next four years.

Thank you for your support.

*Leo Thomson*

**Councillor Leo Thomson**  
**Leader, Ealing Council**

# Cleaner, Greener, Safer

## Improving our streets, parks and public spaces

A clean, green and safe environment is a top priority for people in our borough. We want to build on our good recycling record, improve our street cleaning further and encourage young and old alike to take greater responsibility for their actions.

Together we can provide a safe, pleasant environment, crack down on anti-social behaviour and reduce the fear of crime. We can make ours the safest borough in London - this is a challenge, but with a Labour Government, Labour MPs and a Labour Mayor of London pulling in the same direction we believe we can do it.

### We have

- Improved our refuse collection, doubled our street cleaning and cracked down on graffiti, fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles
- Introduced successful Environmental Action Days and have followed them up with tough legal action
- Improved our recycling rate with our popular green boxes and have introduced our pioneering kitchen waste collection
- Used our links with the Labour Government to provide £20 million to replace every streetlight in five years
- Introduced the popular Safer Neighbourhood teams right across the borough earlier than promised and, working closely with the police, set up area focus groups to help inform and feed back on their work
- Cracked down on anti-social behaviour by issuing over 30 ASBOs - one of the highest figures in London - reducing street and vehicle crime as a result



## We promise to

- Invest an extra £2.7 million a year to improve street cleaning, rubbish collection, recycling and environmental enforcement
- Extend our kitchen waste collection across the whole borough by June 2006 and introduce cardboard and plastics doorstep recycling
- Keep tackling problems with illegal street traders, abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping and graffiti using more street wardens and new legal powers
- Spend an extra £2 million on new or repaired pavements, using a rapid response repair service and taking legal action against those who damage pavements
- Introduce a “Rapid Response” cleaning and bin crew to respond within hours to people’s complaints
- Tackle litter, graffiti, dog-fouling and other crime against the environment through a big public education campaign, and more enforcement
- Have the best street lighting in London by putting in new, energy-efficient street lights across the entire borough
- Work closely with our new Safer Neighbourhood teams to drive down crime and fear of crime
- Have zero tolerance of anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhoods and invest £1 million more in CCTV cameras in our town centres and where people say they are needed



# Feeling good about Ealing

## An even better place to live, work and play

Under Labour Ealing has improved greatly as a place to work, play and live. We share the pride you have in the borough with its fabulous green spaces and vibrant communities.

We are working for even better sports and cultural facilities and aim to keep the right balance between new homes for families and a borough that is a pleasant place to live.

Working with the Labour Mayor of London and the Labour government we are promoting public transport to make workplaces, homes and leisure facilities easier to access.

### We have

- Provided new affordable homes for 540 families and started the regeneration of our major council estates
- Achieved a higher average employment rate than most of the rest of London
- Put in 260 road safety schemes and bus travel measures achieving a dramatic reduction in road traffic accidents
- Begun a massive programme of library refurbishment
- Increased the range of sports and leisure facilities and worked with our partners to provide greater choice
- Improved our parks winning two nationally recognised awards and made great progress with our new park, Northala Fields
- Become the top borough for cycling in London
- Encouraged more cultural events like the nationally renowned London Mela.



## **We promise to**

- Create a new centre for Ealing with the development of high quality shops and homes on Dickens Yard
- Invest in our other town centres by improving their local environments to attract new business and making them pleasant places to visit and shop
- Improve our 14,000 council homes and regenerate our major estates providing more affordable, high-quality family homes and making the borough a better place to live
- Work to ensure the Southall Gas Works site development is created with the maximum possible investment in education, health and transport infrastructure
- Work in partnership with Job Centre Plus, Ealing Homes and businesses to help the unemployed and those on benefits back into work and training
- Keep tackling traffic congestion by expanding the cycling network, improving the frequency and quality of bus services and supporting large public transport schemes such as TfL's West London Tram and Crossrail
- Review our town centre parking policies to ensure that people can access local shops easily and give owners of dual fuel vehicles 50% off their Controlled Parking Zone charges
- Open more of our larger libraries seven days a week and continue our refurbishment programme making our libraries hubs for the communities they serve
- Expand our summer festivals, introduce a "Pride in our Parks" initiative to make them even better and gain more national recognition for our parks.
- Complete the new Northala Fields Park, one of the largest new urban parks in the country and improve Pitzhanger Manor, the borough's flagship cultural venue
- Ensure our borough benefits from the 2012 Olympics by building a new 50 metre pool in Acton, replace the Northolt Swimarama, open new sports centres at Acton and Greenford High Schools and create a new outdoor centre at Swift Rd, Southall

# Every Child Matters

## Making sure every child and young person is healthy, safe and happy and has the best possible start in life

This Labour Council has invested massively in education and this is reflected in our new schools and the greatly improved exam results for our young people, who now do much better than the national average.

We have also ensured that the most deprived and vulnerable young people have access to a great start in life. Our aim is to ensure that every young person fulfils their potential.

### We have

- Become the best education authority in the country for improving the education of all 11-16 year olds
- Significantly improved GCSE results across the borough with the percentage of pupils gaining 5 A\*-C grades increasing from 38% in 1997 to 60% in 2005
- Opened 10 new schools, made 90 major improvements to others and opened a new Sixth Form Centre in Southall with the local college
- Opened 13 children's centres for the under 5's providing 650 new childcare places and created two hugely successful Sure Start projects for families who need the most help
- Invested £2.6 million on 26 new and refurbished play areas across the borough
- Ensured that young people in our care have access to a good start in life, with one of the best national records for university entrance for this group of young people



# We promise to

- Increase our schools building programme with 15 new or refurbished schools over the next four years
- Work with schools to improve exam results even further and provide more vocational training and mentoring opportunities for young people
- Tackle bullying, domestic violence and street crime experienced by young people to make them feel safer
- Further encourage healthy lifestyles by boosting our Active Kids programme, creating an Active Lives programme and making the most of our green spaces
- Double the amount of activities for young people giving them more interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile things to do
- Involve young people in decision-making through a youth engagement forum, and ask them how best to do this
- Open 12 more centres for the under 5's providing education, play, health facilities and childcare
- Make sure that 95% of 16-19 year-olds are in education, good employment or training by providing more work-based training and modern apprenticeship schemes and a bigger range of choices



# Extra help to those in need

## Providing support for the elderly, disabled people and those in poor health

With the Labour Government we have provided help for those people who most need it, giving them support to be as independent as possible.

Our services have improved greatly, we work well with the health service to give people dignity, increased health and wellbeing, and this is borne out by external inspectors.

### We have

- Given more direct payments to people to give them more control over their care and home help
- Provided support for Disability Connects, the powerful voice for disabled people in the borough
- Opened a new, dedicated carers' centre to help those who help others
- Put £26 million extra into services to help the elderly, disabled people and others with additional needs



## **We promise to**

- Provide high quality home care for those older people who want to live at home
- Keep working in partnership with the Primary Care Trust and local hospitals to make sure health care is delivered to meet local needs
- Develop an Active Body, Active Mind initiative, so that elderly people will have better access to activities which keep them healthy and independent
- Make our own buildings and our town centres more accessible for disabled people
- Open five new centres providing modern living accommodation and day facilities for older people
- Provide two more housing schemes for older people who need extra care
- Ensure that people get the money to which they are entitled through a strengthened benefits take up campaign
- Modernise our working methods, making sure that all people who have additional needs are treated with dignity and respect and have fair access to services
- Work towards a borough-wide community run loans fund, to help people access low interest loans without having to go to loan sharks
- Help reduce heating bills by continuing our home insulation programme and ensuring new homes that are built are energy-efficient



# **Our diverse communities**

## **Promoting equality, diversity and respect for one another across the borough**

We have worked tirelessly to bring together diverse communities, from the recently-arrived to the longer-established. As we are the fourth most diverse borough in the country, diversity really does lie at the heart of our borough and makes us who we are. Our staff will be trained to understand people's differing needs and to provide fair access to services. We want people to have a real say in services for their local area - we want to improve on our successful Area Committees where residents are part in the decision making process of the Council.

### **We have**

- Promoted civic pride and community cohesion by proactively engaging with our communities to understand their concerns
- Provided training to staff in equalities and been recognised by the Commission for Racial Equality for our achievements
- Opened a popular new customer centre, reducing waiting times both for people in person and on the phone.
- Increased the powers of Area Committees.
- Forged an excellent relationship with the Voluntary Sector which boosts our help to both newly-arrived and more established communities

### **We promise to**

- Further change area committees so that people have more power to improve their neighbourhoods
- Encourage our minority ethnic residents to engage with mainstream institutions of our society and foster respect for our core values of democracy, freedom and mutual respect
- Give a public service guarantee that will ensure all our communities receive the very best public services possible
- Work with the voluntary sector and our other partners to access more external funding for building capacity in the borough's communities
- Allow ward councillors to be community leaders in their wards and give them individual budgets